



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Monday, Jan. 12, 2009

Arizona Department of Public Safety traffic stop east of Flagstaff results in the seizure of over \$133,000 in U.S. currency

On Jan. 6, 2009, at about 1:40 p.m., an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Canine Officer stopped a 2009 Buick sedan for a traffic violation on Interstate 40 westbound at milepost 201 just east of Flagstaff. While talking with the driver, the officer observed behavior which is indicative of criminal activity on the part of the driver. As a result of the officer's observations the canine was deployed which alerted to the trunk area of the vehicle. Based on the canine alert, a search of the vehicle was conducted. The search revealed a box in the trunk which contained \$133,420 in U.S. currency.

The driver was identified as Damon John Louis, 31, of San Francisco, Calif. He was detained, questioned and later released. The money was seized and the vehicle was returned to the rental agency. The investigation is continuing.

"The excellent work of the DPS officers assigned to our Highway Patrol Division is evident when they intercept drug money moving through the state. We hope this seizure will help keep Arizona communities a bit safer," said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

*Photos available upon request.

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